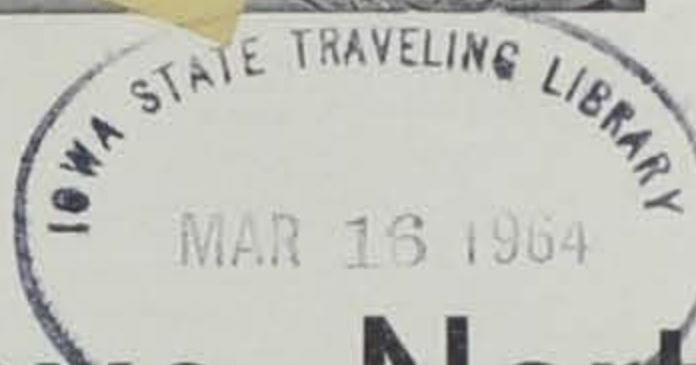




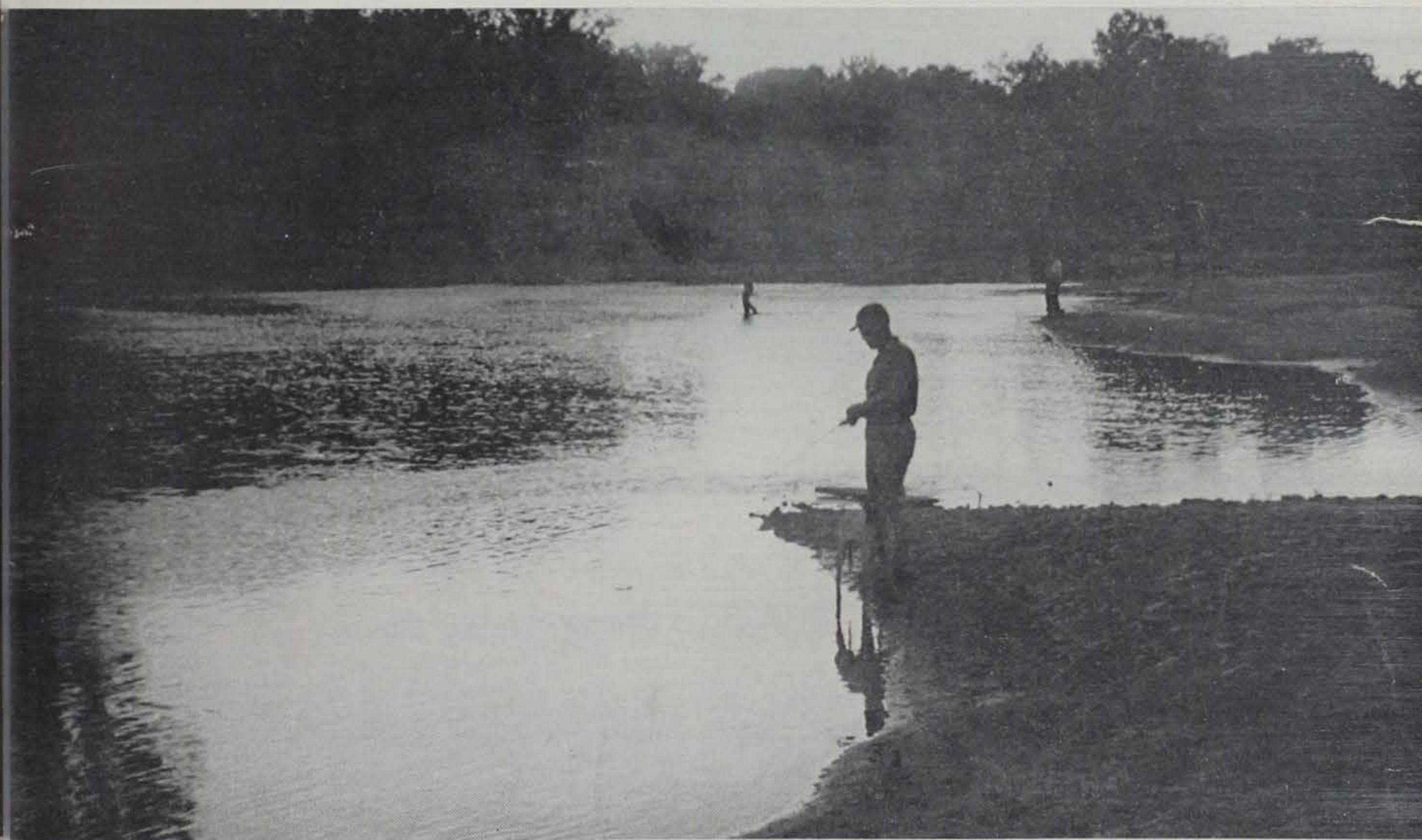
Volume 23

March, 1964

No. 3



Rivers Offer Early Walleye-Northern



Jim Sherman Photo.

Walleye fishing on the Des Moines River.

Denny Rehder

The recent change in the fishing regulations opened the walleye and northern seasons continuously in all waters of the state except the artificial lakes.

Some fishermen have been curious about this interesting change in regulation. The reason for the change according to Commission fishery personnel is an attempt to encourage anglers to fish Iowa rivers for walleye and northern. In addition, the new regulation will allow early spring fishermen to keep fish they have always had to throw back.

Walleye and northern fishing is best in rivers during the early spring through late fall. In the past the angler was forced to do his river walleye fishing in the fall, since the season opened too late in the spring to make the best fishing. Northerns are taken later in the spring and through summer, so there has been some early activity by northern fishermen.

Of course, the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers have a continuous season on walleye, sauger and northern, and have had for some time. But, on the interior artificial lakes and the rivers and streams,

the new regulation offers possibilities for a fine spring of sportfishing.

Where to for some of these river walleyes and northern? Consider the walleye. There are local hot spots on many inland streams and rivers, but the primary areas are the Des Moines River north of Lehigh and upstream, the Raccoon from Sac City to Jefferson, the Big Sioux River, the Rock River, upper Little Sioux, the Iowa from Iowa Falls to Eldora, the Shellrock from Rockford to the Cedar River, the Cedar from Mitchell to Palisades-Kepler State Park near Mount Vernon, and the Wapsipinicon from Independence to Oxford Mills.

Best baits are minnows, worms, crawdads and frogs with or without spinners for natural bait. Artificially are usually leadheads, deep-running or weighted plugs and the jig and bobber combinations.

NORTHERNS

The northern is the easiest of our large game fish to catch. They usually feed during the day at most any depth and they will move to the bait. Almost any fishing method can take northern although spoons and spinners are probably most popular for artificial bait. Many fishermen use bobbers when fishing minnows or other small fish.

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COMMISSION MINUTES

Des Moines, February 4

COUNTY CONSERVATION

Black Hawk County received approval for the acquisition of two tracts of land consisting of 80 acres located 4½ miles northeast of Dunkerton at a total cost of \$4,550 to be used as fishing access on the Wapsipinicon River, and will be an addition to Bruggeman Park.

Black Hawk County also received approval for the acquisition of an addition to the Renz Access located 2½ miles east of Dunkerton and consisting of 27 acres of land at a total cost of \$1,350 to be used as a public fishing access on the Wapsi River and Crane Creek.

Black Hawk County received approval for the 5-year lease at the cost of \$100 per year, on a four acre tract of land on U. S. Highway 63, 1 mile northeast of Hudson to be used as a highway safety rest area.

Chickasaw County received approval for an addition to Saude Park, consisting of 3.44 acres of land located one mile south and west of the town of Saude at a cost of \$170 per acre as an addition to the present seven acres in this park, to be used for parking, a softball diamond and play field.

Hardin County received approval for the acquisition of 50 acres of land at a total cost of \$5,000 located eight miles southeast of Iowa Falls, to be called the Robb River Access Area to be used for camping, picnicking and river access, and located on the Iowa River.

Polk County received approval for a 10-year lease at a total cost of \$1 for 4.5 acres of land as an addition to the Saylor Recreation Area, to be used as a kids' fishing lagoon, various athletic playfields, etc.

Sac County received approval for an addition to Coon River Park, consisting of one acre of land at a total cost of \$500 to be used to improve the entrance road into the park.

Delaware County received approval for a development plan for the Milo Township Forest Area, which will be primarily a forest preserve but includes picnic areas,

a camping area, and an archery range.

Polk County received approval for a development plan for the Lewis A. Jester County Park, to include picnicking area, camping areas, play fields, winter sport area, wildlife displays, equestrian area and trails, an 18-hole golf course and other improvements.

FISH AND GAME

Approval was given to an option for 121 acres at a total cost of \$24,280, located on the south shore of Ventura Marsh near Clear Lake.

Staff members were instructed to attend the hearing of Natural Resources Council on the recent straightening project on the Maquoketa River and to enter an official objection to this project.

The Commission viewed photos of a recent fish kill on the Mississippi River near Fort Madison.

Approval was given to a bid of \$18,600 for a residence at the Mt. Ayr Fish Hatchery.

The Commission instructed the director to authorize the Country Club at Creston to remove rough fish from Lake Summit.

The Commission authorized the Supt. of Engineering to advertise for bids on a new building at the Clear Lake Fish Hatchery and a remodeling project on the old structure. The project to include a new hatching facility and aquarium with office and laboratory space located across the street from the present hatchery.

LAND AND WATERS

The director was authorized to write a letter to Congressman Bromwell stating that our Commission would be happy to receive any proposal regarding a possible transfer of Ft. Atkinson in Winnebago County to the National Park Service.

Approval was given to an option adjacent to Bellevue State Park in Jackson County for approximately 62 acres at a cost of \$60 per acre.

Approval was given for an option by Grosvenor adjacent to Winnebago Bend, Missouri River, consisting of 65 acres at a total cost of \$5,000 subject to approval of the executive council.

Approval was given to the proposed sale of land adjacent to Muscatine Slough, Muscatine County, at a price of \$300 per acre, with a stipulation that public access be maintained to the slough area.

A construction permit was granted to the Iowa-Illinois Gas & Electric to cross the Iowa River in Johnson County with a pipe line, contingent on agreement concerning certain liability provisions.

GENERAL

Fishing regulations for 1964 were approved and opening dates for the principal hunting seasons for 1964 were set.

Travel was approved for a discussion of commercial fishing regulations at Pepin, Wisconsin; to the Mississippi Flyway Council Technical meeting at Nashville,

Tennessee; to sport shows to be held in St. Louis, Chicago, Omaha, LaCrosse and Milwaukee; and to a movie photographer short course at Kansas City.

The Director was authorized to appoint eight water safety patrolmen.

Informational and discussion items included the possible acquisition of the Federal Forest lands in Iowa, report on hunter safety training in the state, planning for a water safety school at Fort Dodge in February, and meetings to be held concerning the Big Sioux River and Little Sioux River at Sioux City and Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Planning a Full Summer of Camping and Parkhopping?

Iowans planning a busy summer of camping and parkhopping should contact the Conservation Commission for its latest booklet on Iowa recreation areas. This up-to-date booklet lists all state parks and preserves, forest areas, and areas under management agreements with other groups. Included is a listing of campgrounds, and facilities, concessions, as well as a short sketch of the activities available at each area.

A Maynard Reece illustration graces the cover of "Iowa's State-Owned Recreation Areas." You should have this in the glove compartment of your car.

Write the Public Relations Section, State Conservation Commission, East 7th and Court, Des Moines, for your free copy.

The Mourning Dove

David H. Thompson

One of the familiar voices of an American spring is a low-pitched, moaning "ooah, cooo, cooo, coo" that sounds as if someone were blowing across the mouth of a jug. Like the work of an expert ventriloquist, it seems to come from one direction, then another until, with a whistle of wings, a bird clad in soft colors flashes away.

The mourning dove—commonly called turtle dove—has a light brown head and back but the neck and breast shimmer like watered silk with tints of rose, lavender and tan. The feathers of the long sharp tail are tipped with white. The beak is black and the feet are red. The bird has long pointed wings and is streamlined for speed. The sexes are much alike and average about four ounces in weight. The male puffs out his chest and does all the cooing.

The nest is an unlined platform of twigs built at any height from ground level to the tops of the tallest trees, and so flimsy that the eggs can often be seen from below. The two creamy white eggs are incubated by both parents, with the male taking the day

Important Changes in The '64 Fishing Regulations

The 1964 fishing seasons and limits hold some important changes for Iowa anglers. Increasing liberalization of our fishing regulations led to the establishment of a continuous open season for walleye, sauger and northern pike in all waters of the state except the natural lakes which will continue to have an opening and closing date.

Ice fishermen will be happy to hear of their additional two hours of fishing time on the national lake. Where the hours for fishing were from 6:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m., they have now been changed to run from 6:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.

On your marks, froggers! March 1 will herald the beginning of a continuous open season on frogs and bullfrogs.

There have been no changes from last year's catch and possession limits and the other seasons remain the same as last year. The new regulations are effective March 1 and will continue in force until February 28, 1965.

Opening Dates for Hunting Seasons

The opening dates for this fall hunting season have been set by the State Conservation Commission. The early establishment of these openings is done to sportsmen interested in arranging their vacation schedules to include their favorite game season openings.

Pheasant and Hungarian Partridge Nov. 8
Quail Oct. 8
Squirrel and Rabbit Sept. 1
Raccoon (hunting) Oct. 1

Also, the trapping season opens November 14.

These dates are subject to change by the Commission, should later investigation show cause for a change.

shift from about 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and the female the rest of time. This schedule allows the male to find food and water. The male hatch on the 14th day.

At first the young are fed "pigeon milk," a cheesy liquid secreted by the throats and crop of the parents and pumped into the young. When their bills are locked, the young bird's mouth pops open and it starts to swallow. Soon the diet of pigeon milk is replaced by seeds regurgitated from the crops of the parents. fledglings are fully grown and leave the nest by the time they are two weeks old. The parents may hatch two, occasionally three, and rarely four broods of young before the summer is over.

After leaving the nest the young remain with their parents

(Continued on page 21)

The Need for Open Lands

Roberts Mann

There is an old saying: "The proof of the pudding is the eating." In other words, if it's good, people enjoy it and beg for more. The need for open lands—publicly owned areas for recreational and open spaces undisturbed—is the tremendous and ever-increasing need of those we have.

We need more now. Year after year we will need more and more. It is imperative that areas desirable for future use be acquired now or as possible, regardless of cost and even though they may stand "vacant and undeveloped—until more funds become available. Otherwise they may be gone, or the asking price may be a hundred times greater. Open spaces such as farm lands and prairies may have been occupied by residential, commercial or industrial developments. Woodlands may have been cut, stream channels dredged and wetlands drained, destroying all but a memory of their beauty and recreational values.

There are compelling reasons for our need of open lands and why we should waste no time in providing more. Those reasons have been considered and emphasized by exhaustive studies and statistical analyses nationwide in scope.

The population of these United States is increasing rapidly. Most of the increase is taking place in metropolitan areas. Adequate open spaces properly located are essential for the well-being of the people in those areas. We are becoming more mobile; facilitated in going places by means of more and better automobiles, expressways, interstates, highways, and aircraft. People have more and more leisure time. They have more money to spend. Most compelling, because of these changes, is the fact that people are becoming more outdoor-oriented.

The complexion of America is changing before our eyes. By the year 2000 only 36 years from now—and how old will you be then? It is predicted that the population of the United States will be twice what it was in 1960. Three-fourths of that population will be clustered in metropolitan regions around about 200 central cities. The demand for recreational areas and facilities will have tripled.

Those people will need, convenient to them, woodlands, waters, open spaces where there is elbow room, freedom from man-made, manhandled environment, and a feeling of closeness to the soil. Inevitably, any metropolitan area becomes crowded, noisy, bustling and artificial. Its citizens live at a fast tempo and under high nervous tensions.

City and village parks to some extent, but especially county or metropolitan parks and forest preserves, provide the antidote for this. They furnish places, close by, for simple forms of recreation—fishing, nature walks, fishing, hiking, skating, bicycling, et cetera. They provide the restful inspiration that nature gives to most of us, the mental tonic of peaceful hours.

Sixty years ago, in Chicago, when the proposal to establish a system of outer parks, or of forest preserves, was being debated, Daniel Burnham said: "Natural scenery furnishes the contrasting element to the artificiality of the city. All of us should often run away from the works of men's hands and back into the wilds, where mind and body are restored to a normal condition, and we are enabled to shake up the burden of life in our crowded streets and endless stretches of buildings with renewed vigor and hopefulness."

Go ye unto them that join house to house, that lay field to field, that there be no place, that they may be placed alone in the midst of the earth!" (Isaiah 5:8)—Cook County Forest Preserve.

An Early Iowa Forest Product

Bruce Plum
District Forester

One of the first trees felled in virgin forests of early Iowa was used not for the wood but for honey stored there by honey bees. Swarms of bees used the natural hollows in trees filling them with wax comb and wild honey. These were generally known as bee trees.

Instances have been reported of "barrelful" and "tubful" of honey were taken by early Iowa hunters. It was reported that timberland along the Skunk River was a paradise for bee hunters. Bee trees must have been plentiful along other Iowa streams. Names are indicative. There are Honey Creeks in Iowa, presumably named so by early settlers who found honey there in abundance.

Honey was a luxury on the frontier where sugar was almost unobtainable. The collection of wild honey was no doubt profitable and it involved little expenditure of funds. The early bee hunter often worked hard in order to secure this much-sought-after product of the forest.

A Wild Adventure

In 1835 settlements extended from the Mississippi River to the Skunk River in Henry County. In the summer of that year one John Huff along with five other men crossed the Skunk River and entered what is now Jefferson County. They were seeking bee trees and new land to settle. Until this time there were no other reports of



Jim Sherman Photo.

The proposed acquisition of federal forest lands in southeast is an important step in the preservation of open lands in Iowa. As Mann points out in his article, open space is going to become increasingly rare as time progresses.

white men entering this area. It is reported that within a period of two or three hours they had discovered ten bee trees. They cut part of them and marked the rest for future use. Before the land was settled the finder of a bee tree would cut his initials on the tree. This was recognized as a rightful claim to the tree and its contents.

After their find they returned to a settlement in Henry County where Huff set to work making barrels for holding honey. He made three forty gallon barrels from staves cut from linn trees. About six weeks later he and a companion loaded the barrels in a canoe and paddled up the Skunk River to a point in Jefferson County. They found enough honey to fill two of the barrels and almost fill the third one. Another canoe was necessary for the trip back so they cut a large tree and made a dug-out canoe. They were planning on taking the honey to Carthage, Illinois, via Ft. Madison, where Huff expected to find a ready market.

When they reached the present site of Rome in Henry County the canoe with the honey overturned dumping honey, supplies and equipment into the river. The barrel which was not quite full floated and the others sank. They retrieved the floating barrel, but in the ex-

citement Huff lost his shoes in the river. It was soon apparent they could not retrieve their honey and other articles without special equipment.

It was November and the barefooted Huff had no alternative. He set out on a thirty-five mile walk to Burlington. When he reached Burlington he obtained a pair of shoes and grappling hooks then returned to the scene of the disaster. He raised the barrels of honey in an undamaged condition and continued his trip to Carthage. He sold his hard earned honey for fifty cents per gallon. In January he returned to "harvest" more honey from the virgin timber of Jefferson County. Certainly honey hunters did not always suffer this much bad luck, but hazards were present in this frontier enterprise.

As the land became settled many cases were brought before a local justice of the peace who had to decide whether the bees and their honey belonged to the finder or the land owner. Often the finder of the bee tree arranged to share the contents with the owner of the land where the honey was found.

The "Honey War"

A border dispute between Iowa and Missouri in 1837 bears the name "Honey War." The contested region consisted of agriculture land,

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To Clean a Reel . . .

Jack Kirstein

If your favorite fishing reel was put to bed at the end of last season without a good and thorough cleaning, you'd better get it out now and do your housekeeping before the coming season arrives.

To clean a reel it is not necessary to remove the line from the spool. Much of the reel itself must be taken apart, and for this purpose a small screwdriver or two and a small adjustable wrench is all you need.

Linen and silk lines should have been removed and dried fully at the end of each trip last year. If this was not done, you should check now to see that you still have line without rotten spots. The new nylon braided lines and monofilament lines require no drying, but you should have removed most of the line and dried the spool under it before storing it for any length of time. The toughness of monofilament lines does not permit the line to pack down upon itself when it shrinks. Cold weather causes this shrinking or contracting. If your line was wound tightly in warm weather and afterward subjected to cold air, the sidewise action of the line as it contracted may have broken the reel spool. This is one of the more common causes of reel repairs.

Check the condition of your line and for best results use as light a test line as you feel capable of using and keep the spool at least 90 per cent full.

Any major repairs should be done by a qualified reel service technician at your favorite shop, but you can perform the following preventative cleaning and oiling yourself.

Fly Reels . . . Single action reels can be taken apart and cleaned easily by even the most inexperienced beginner. For automatic fly reels, remove the two staff screws, relieve the spring tension

but do not attempt to remove the spring from the head cap, and then remove the gear case or spool. You can now clean and lightly oil the inner parts of the reel.

Grease should be used sparingly if used at all.

Cleaning . . . should be done with water and a soap or detergent, and an old toothbrush makes a handy scrubber for hard to clean gears and hard to reach corners of the case. Solvents and gasoline should not be used, as they have the detrimental effect of shrinking plastic parts. Also, if not completely removed, they may leave a gummy residue on parts where you can't see this sticky deposit. Any such foreign matter in the reel will impair the proper action of the reel.

Casting Reels . . . Remove the crank handle, remove both spool caps if easily removed, take the head cap, pull out the drive gear, and remove the inner plate if possible on your reel. Take out the spool and a rubber band around the line will keep it tight until you are ready to reassemble the whole unit. If your line guide has an eighth of an inch or more play to either side, replace it now. The little pawl that rides on the worm gear inside of the level winding line guide should be replaced during each time your reel is cleaned. The cost is low, and wear on this little part can cause more expensive damage to the worm gear itself.

Coat all parts with a light coat of oil and then wipe off the excess with a soft cloth. Oil the reel spool bearings and the gear staff. Also put one drop of oil on each handle knob. Lightly oil the line guide and worm, as should be done before each trip during the season and once each hour if you are doing a lot of casting during any one day. Lightly grease gear teeth only.

Lubricating . . . Is best done with a light weight special reel oil



Photos by Jack Kirstein

An exploded view of the four commonly used reels showing the order of takedown.

that is prepared for delicate parts and made of whale sperm oil. This reel oil is waterproof and won't be removed by a little water entering the case of your reel. By all means follow any special oiling and cleaning instructions in the manual or directions you received with your reel, but be sure not to use more oil than necessary as oil in the wrong places will ruin the action of your reel. If grease is to be used, be sure it is a very light coating and in only specified spots. The gears in a reel can rotate at speeds up to 700 RPM and at that speed will throw off excess grease causing trouble in the rest of the reel.

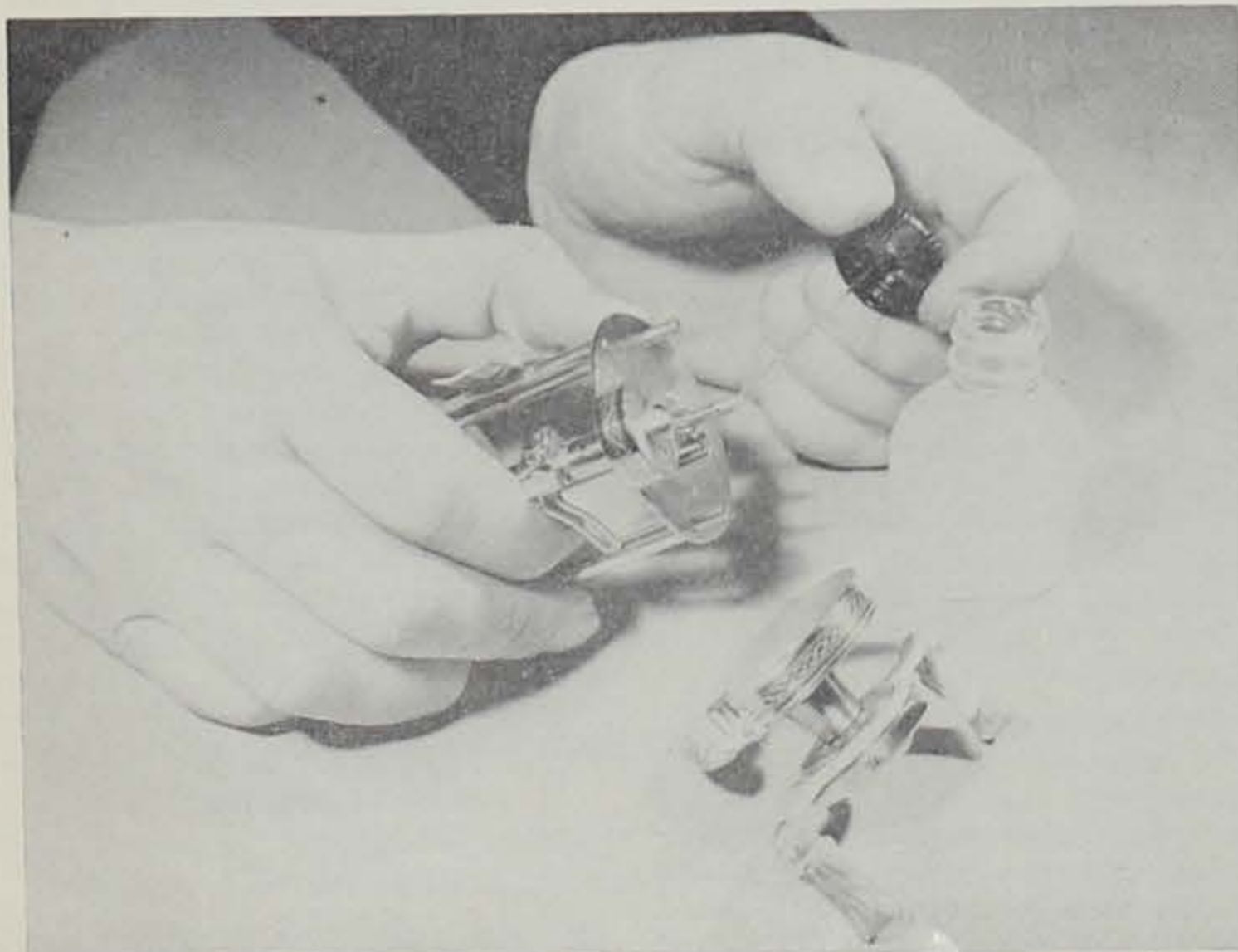
Spin Cast Reels . . . Remove front cone first, remove pick-up as-

sembly, take out spool, remove crank handle, remove drive gear assembly, clean and reassemble. Put a light film of grease on center shaft and drive gear.

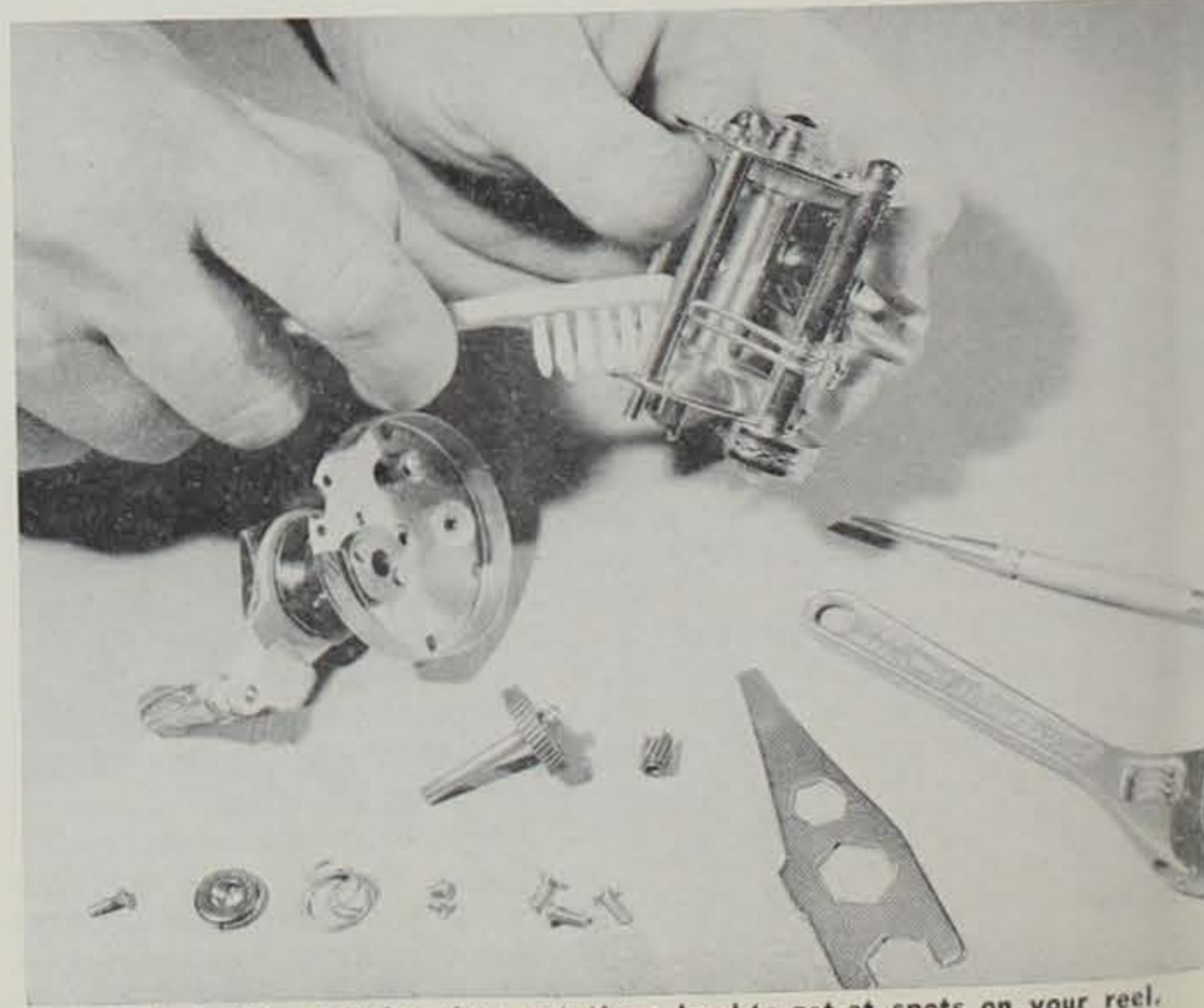
Reels that use slip-type spool drag should have a light grease coating on the spool bearing. A grease drive gear shaft lightly its housing and check your instructions for any special oiling.

Spinning Reels . . . Remove spool, remove crank handle, take out screws on the side of the reel and remove the drive gear assembly very carefully! Unless you are qualified to repair your own reel is not advisable to disassemble spinning reels any further. Spinning reels use a series of small shims ut-

(Continued on page 21)



Pick up a light oil especially made for reels at your tackle dealer. This oil is more resistant to water than common household oil.



A toothbrush helps clean out those hard-to-get-at spots on your reel.

Try a Sweater Weather Picnic . . .

Jack Kirstein

For a real treat, try a picnic in the early months of the year, beat the mosquitoes and intense heat to the beauty of the state parks and campgrounds.

With the proper cooperation of the weather man and a good supply of sweaters or sweat shirts, you can enjoy the outdoor freshness at any time when the usual deterring factors are missing.

When the spring warmth pushes the mercury up into the 40 to 50 degree ranges, the southern slopes of the sheltered picnic ground attract the sun's rays and trapping the heat. On a calm day, these warm areas are perfect for outdoor fun and weather is just what is encountered any time of the year.

On a quiet walk through the woods you may also find the early budding beauty of the wild trillium, and if conditions are right, many other early woodland wildflowers, some of which may be blooming in the melting snow of winter.

As an added attraction, you may be the only visitor in the park, or at least only a few others may be sharing this experience with you. Now is the time for the child to shout and run at will, without bothering other folks in the park. It is an exhilarating feeling to have a vast expanse of Iowa all to yourself, and you'll wonder why you haven't tried this before.

For the more adventurous in the family, this is also the time to check the weather forecasts, and perhaps dig out the camping equipment for a spring safari into the state campgrounds.

You can have your choice of campsites, and unlimited use of facilities, including your own private access to the shelter houses. The huge fireplace and sheltered tables give you a taste of the kind of living that prevailed in ancient unheated castles, and as you have it all to yourself, you may fancy for a few moments that you are the lord of this land and master of an ancient forested estate.

If you have a space heater for your tent you may wish to take it along for the brief use between changing wear and outdoor togs, though changing in your car can be accomplished for more heat. Usually the daytime temperatures are acceptable with a sweater or jacket, and gymnasium-type sweat shirts and pants make fine clothes for this kind of outing.

The voice of the mountain lion has long been a subject of controversy. However, experts believe their calls are similar to those of a house cat but magnified many times in volume and depth of tone.

REEL CLEAN—

(Continued from page 20)

each of the gears, and although they appear similar they are easily mixed up and will not interchange. They are easily removed and often stick to the grease under the gear only to fall off when the gear is removed.

You can easily remove the bail and the spring under it for a coat of light grease.

Miscellaneous . . . It is best not to attempt to disassemble star drag mechanisms, but leave this to a competent repair station, as you may also wish to do with any major repairs. Your repairman is the only source of exact replacement parts and expert advice.

It is also best for the uninitiated to refrain from taking apart any free spool releasing mechanisms.

If at any time your reel is dropped in sand, take the time to clean it before further use. Lake or river water can be used right on the spot and a light coat of oil applied. A single grain of sand lodged in nylon gears may cause you a costly repair bill.

Do this preventative maintenance now and your reels will be ready when the first blush of spring finds you reaching for your fishing tackle.

DOVE—

(Continued from page 18)

about ten days while they learn to feed themselves and find their way to water. They gather into flocks and, by July, start to migrate southward. Here in Iowa the adults usually linger until September or October and a few stay all winter.

The mourning dove nests from southern Canada to Mexico and in all of the 48 states between. In winter they are concentrated from our Gulf states southward through the West Indies and Mexico to Central America. It is an All-American bird.

The dove is strictly a seed eater—about two-thirds weed seeds and one-third waste grain from farmers' fields. The food left behind by the mechanical corn picker makes it one of the dove's best friends.

Late each afternoon, doves habitually make a trip for a drink of water—often flying as much as five miles to get it. Pioneers crossing the western plains where water was scarce learned to find it by following their flight. Unlike most birds that dip their beaks and then raise their heads to let the water trickle down their throats, doves and pigeons drink like a youngster sucking pop through a straw.

The mourning dove is hunted as a game bird in 31 states. In most of the others it is regarded as a songbird and protected at all times. Where shooting is permitted, it is regulated by both federal and state laws. A tricky swift-flying target, the dove challenges the skill of the early autumn hunter. Cook County Forest Preserve.



Jim Sherman Photo.

We trapped our first raccoon in that old farm grove. Such groves are declining since the need for fuel wood has passed on most farms.

There Was an Old Farm Grove

Denny Rehder

Memories from younger days often take on increasing importance as we grow older. Events stick in the mind to be brought to light once more when a chance remark triggers their release.

A particular case in point involves a discussion the other day of the decline in farm groves and the problems this has posed for rabbit populations. Most people can remember when every farmer had his own grove to supply the firewood for the cookstove and fireplace. That grove was a valuable asset to his property.

We remember well the hum of the saw mounted on Dad's steel-wheeler as he cut firewood for the coming winter. In fact, we can just about feel the nip of the cold winter air as we hurried out in the evening to fill the woodbox so we might stay in bed a bit later in the morning.

But most of all, we remember old Dan Charles and his farm grove. There was a difference in Dan's grove and those of his neighbors. Most families had the hogs, cattle, horses, and chickens running through, in and out their groves, but old Dan had a tight fence about his grove and kept the stock out. When he cut wood he piled up his brush like everyone else did, but he never burned it.

Everyone used to chuckle at old Dan's careful attention to his little patch of timber. But, when it came to hunting season we youngsters always headed for that timber. There were rabbits galore in those brushpiles and the hedge-rows around the timber always had pheasants. Dan had never cut a couple of den trees there and

we always could pick up a few squirrels during the fall.

At times, it seemed that the whole world of nature focused its attention on that patch of trees. We saw our first fox slinking through some underbrush there. Once an eagle perched in a big cottonwood down in one corner of the grove. We trapped a 'coon there—the first thing we ever caught in a trap—and didn't know what to do with it. And there was an old bee tree we used to raid in the fall for some of its honey.

Yes, Dan had a special kind of grove. Those who grew up around that grove will probably carry its memory with them most of their life.

We drove by the old homeplace and through the old neighborhood the other day. We went by Dan Charles' old place and it surely had changed. The big old farmhouse was gone, a neat little one-story home in its place. The buildings were neatly painted and much of the fence looked new. But the biggest change of all was that old grove of our youth. Only a few trees remained standing; most of the area was bare with only neatly trimmed grass where there had once been so much activity. The old bee tree was gone, the hedge had been grubbed out, and the brushpiles were gone.

It looked awfully neat, but there was an unnatural air about the place, too. It seemed to be . . . well, sort of sterile. And during the time we sat and looked at the place we never saw a rabbit, a pheasant, or any other wildlife where the old grove had been. There were a couple of songbirds, but even their singing sounded a little hollow.

The water shrew can literally run across the surface of a quiet pool of water because of air bubbles in its feet.

Antelope fawns develop quickly and when only one or two days old can run as fast as 25 miles an hour.

THE FUNDAMENTALS OF FLY FISHING—PART II

Terminal Tackle and Lures

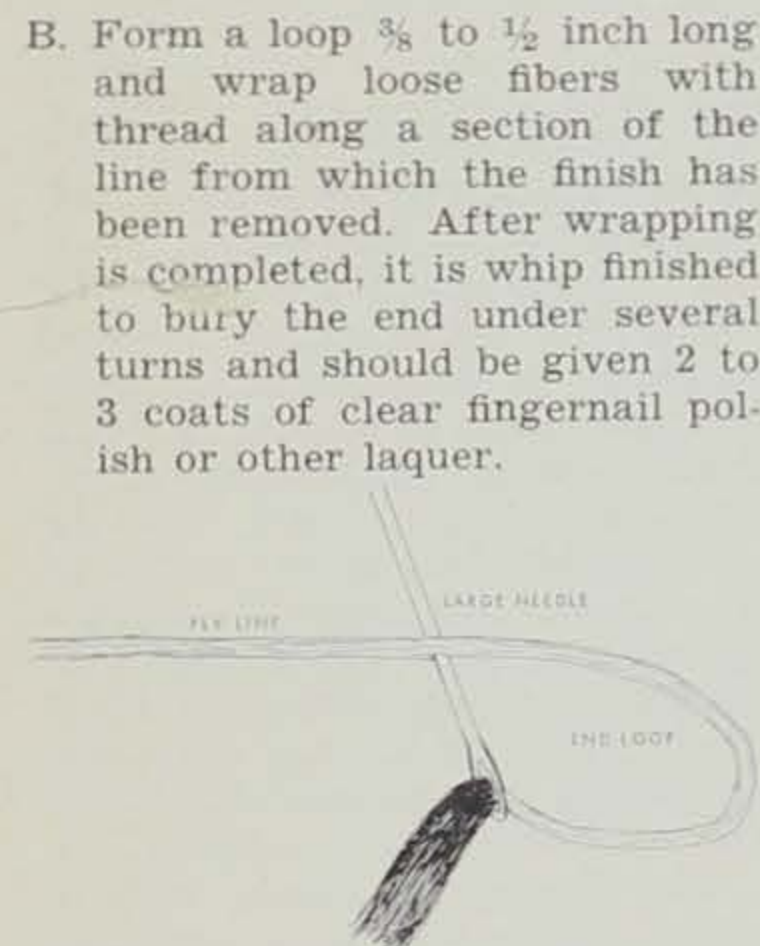
Bill Tate
Asst. Supt. of Fisheries

A knowledge of methods of joining the fly line and leader is essential to the fly fisherman. There are several methods for forming end loops in the fly line, to which the leader is tied. A small loop in the end of the tapered fly line facilitates the changing of leaders.

FIGURE 1: Making an end loop in fly line . . .

A. Remove finish from $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch of line and tease fibers of line with bodkin, until they are separated.

B. Form a loop $\frac{3}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch long and wrap loose fibers with thread along a section of the line from which the finish has been removed. After wrapping is completed, it is whip finished to bury the end under several turns and should be given 2 to 3 coats of clear fingernail polish or other laquer.



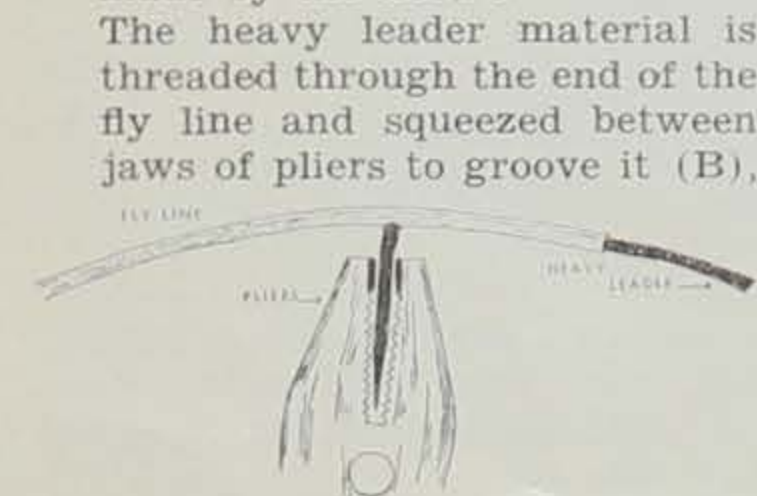
C. Added strength may be secured by using a darning needle to penetrate the fly line when forming the loop.

End loops in level lines or other large diameter lines will interfere with proper presentation of the leader and fly when fly casting. A heavy piece of leader may be attached to the line which will be durable and allow easy attachment of the balance of the fishing leader.

FIGURE 2: Attaching leader to fly line . . .

A. A darning needle is used to penetrate $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch of fly line and the heavy leader material is pulled through. If the leader material is stiff, it may be pushed through the hole made by the needle.

The heavy leader material is threaded through the end of the fly line and squeezed between jaws of pliers to groove it (B).



then is wrapped with thread and lacquered (C).



The size or breaking strength of the leader material used will depend upon the size of the fly line and the type of fishing for which the line is to be used.

Small metal eyelets are available which are inserted into the end of the fly line. Small barbs hold the eyelet in place and the leader may be tied to the eyelet.

FIGURE 3: Metal eyelet for inserting into fly line so that a leader may be attached. Note: The small barbs on these eyelets will eventually rust or erode away, allowing the eyelet to pull from the line.



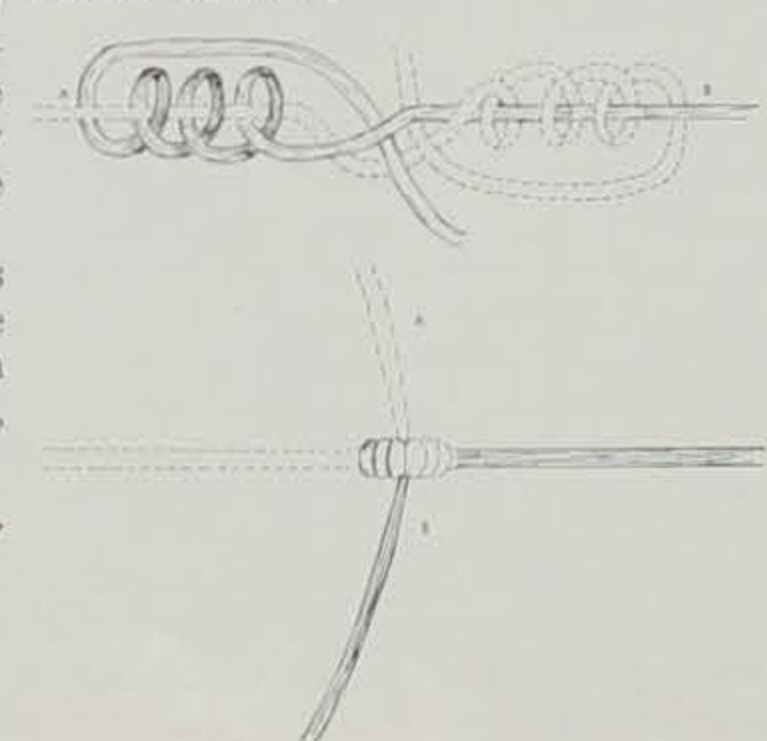
LEADERS

The leader plays a double role in fly fishing. It tends to make the fact that the fly is connected to a line less obvious and a properly constructed leader aids in the proper delivery of the fly during the cast. Tapered leaders give the best performance. There are two types of tapered leaders:

(1) Continuous lengths of monofilament that taper from large to small diameter are now available in various diameters and lengths. These leaders are satisfactory for most fishing and since they are knotless, are nearly invisible and make little commotion when they alight on the water.

(2) Most fly fishermen prefer to "roll their own," that is, they make their tapered leaders from lengths of monofilament leader material of various diameters and breaking strengths. Leaders can be tied to suit conditions for a particular fishing trip.

FIGURE 4: Knot for joining leader sections.



Lures approximately actual size. Left column top to bottom—Flutter-bug metal wobbler, flicker spinner, small spoon; small lead-head jig with flicker spinner, fly rod plug. Cent. column top to bottom—"Cricket" wet fly; black ant wet fly (nymph); "bluegill" popper, size 20 "midge" dry fly, size 18 "Palmered" mosquito dry fly. Right column top to bottom—Streamer fly, bucktail, "ruptured duck" wet fly, "Optic" type streamer, B. popper.

The knot for joining leader section is shown in Figure 4. The heaviest section of leader should be the longest, and each succeeding section should be of smaller diameter and shorter. The total length of the leader used is determined by several factors, such as: water clarity and turbulence, size and type of fish sought, size and type of lure and wind velocity. Even with short fly rods, a leader should be a minimum of 6 feet in length. When using short rods on small streams a $7\frac{1}{2}$ to 9 foot leader is suitable for bass and trout fishing. The complete leader maybe put together prior to the fishing trip. Or, a leader may be built by adding sections to the heavy section which has already been fastened to the fly line.

The leader can be looped or tied to the flyline loop or eyelet. The knot shown below is a satisfactory knot for tying a leader to the fly line.

FIGURE 5: Knot for tying leader to fly line loop or eyelet. This same knot can be used to tie a fly or hook to the leader.



FLIES AND LURES

The fly rod was designed to cast flies or other very light lures and a balanced fly rod and line should cast these light lures best. A different casting technique must be developed to cast so called "fly rod size" plugs, spoons and lead-head jigs. The accompanying photograph illustrates a wide range of lures that can be used with the fly rod.

The lures illustrated are types or classes of lures to show the wide

range of lures available. There are many other types of lures and many thousands of "standard pattern" flies available. The selection of the proper lure under various fishing conditions will be discussed in future articles on fly fishing techniques.

The fisherman who limits his choice of lures to one or a few types of lures also limits his effectiveness as a fisherman.

The flying squirrel does not fly in the sense that birds and bats move freely through the air. But for thousands of centuries it has been trying and has become an expert glider.

An excellent hunter, the bobcat will patiently stalk his quarry until he finds an ideal location for attack. His diet consists mostly of rabbits, squirrels and mice.

The coyote is one of the most versatile and cunning of all the wild animals. This cunning, coupled with its small size and retiring nature, greatly aids its survival.

The mountain beaver never hibernates. Even in the high mountains where the snow piles up and stays on the ground for several months, it maintains its daily routine.

One jackrabbit for every five ten acres of land is usually considered a high population. Individual home ranges of the animals are often larger.

The venturesome star-nosed shrew moles not only leave the tunnels, but like water and are good swimmers.

ARCHERS' LEXICON

Tom Ballard

You may have thought the catfish or bass fisherman was the champion at telling those "one that got away" stories. Now you find yourself in the middle of a bow-ers session where the tales are less "fishy" (perhaps?) but no less imaginative.

The following lexicon is for the bow and arrow fan and his friends that have stumbled into a session.

There are basically three types of bow and arrow shooters. The **hunter**; the **archer**, who shoots level ground with targets at a known distance; and the **field archer**, who shoots from hill and dale fully through a wooded area with natural obstacles, at targets placed at known or unknown distances.

The **belly** of the bow faces the archer. The **back** or **face** of the bow is the surface away from him. The bow that **stacks** is one that draws very smoothly and easily during the initial portion of the draw but "stacks up" or becomes extremely difficult to pull during the final few inches near anchor point at full draw.

The **serving** is the center portion of the bowstring with a special winding to receive the arrow.

The distance from the **nocking point**, where the arrow sets on the bowstring, and the inside of the bow handle is called the **fistmele**.

The long prong or antenna you have seen protruding from the modern bow handle is called a **tor dampener**. It absorbs the vibrations you normally get in your hand and wrist with each shot. Some bows have **stabilizers** on their bows to accomplish the same thing.

A **kisser button** is a small rubber that is put on the bowstring. It touches the archer's lips at the point each draw, providing consistent anchor point check.

The **fletcher** is the gadget used to attach or put feathers on arrows. The stiffness of an arrow is called **spine**.

Light shooting puts a premium on skill in shooting for maximum distance.

Sandbagger—An archer who intentionally shoots a low score to fall in a class below his actual abilities. The sandbagger shoots in the top of class B rather than as an average class A.

Instinctive—The class of archers do not use bow sights. Some are called "bare bow" class.

Free style—Archery class that uses any of the various types of sights.

An archer shoots an **end** of arrows at each target. This is usually four arrows for field archers and six arrows in target archery. For example, the **York** end is 12 ends at 100 yards, 8 ends at 80 yards, and 4 ends at 40 yards or a total of 144 shots.

A TOUCH OF SPRING

Carol Buckmann

As March snows begin to melt, the mourning cloak and red admiral butterflies occasionally rouse themselves from their winter sleep to take wing through the open forest glade. The returning bluebirds herald spring sending their song on the crisp forest air.

In March, other signs begin at the woodland margins where skunk cabbage plants generate temperatures several degrees higher than their surroundings. They poke their hoods with foul smelling leaves through the frozen earth often before any other signs of life.

Unseen changes are taking place inside trees as buds prepare to fling their green banners. As early as February 22, pussy willows and soft maples begin blooming soon followed by other tree varieties before the leaves burst. The leaf buds which open with rising spring temperatures, were formed during the previous summer and fall responding to the lengthening nights and remaining dormant through winter.

The beginning of spring activity depends on the temperature and the amount of frost in the soil. Within the earth, depending on its rate of thaw, other changes take place this month. The upward migration of earth worms begins, evidenced by little mounds of digested earth on the damp surface no less a harbinger of spring than early bird songs. Robins arrive to greet the worms tunneling from deep in the earth.

Animals such as muskrats and beavers confined to the streams by ice are moving about in March. Depending on the rate of ice thaw, reptiles and amphibians are also moving about. Other signs of spring become evident as chipmunks open their burrows while ground squirrels and woodchucks come out of their dens to actively forage for food.

Swarms of flying insects fill the air but if a cold snap arrives, they lie stunned in the weeds. Anytime the weather warms, bees are on the move, but in late March, they are out in full force pollinating the pussy willows.

On the forest floor, the once vivid leaves of six months ago have turned to faded litter soon stirred by flowering plants. Depending once again on the soil frost, hepaticas, rue anemones and dwarf trilliums daub spring color through the woods to start the wildflower procession reaching its peak in April and May. This burst of color is no accident as these small flowers must do their blooming before the canopy of tree leaves screens out the sunlight.

Blooming on the woodland floor is unfailing each year and follows a precise timetable. But why do skunk cabbages bloom in March, bloodroot in April and dog-tooth violets in May? Why not in September as the aster and blazing



The spring goose flight, one of the most spectacular sights in the world, is a fitting reminder of the new life that comes with the close of winter.

Jack Kirstein Photo

stars do?

The key to nature's timetable has long eluded botanists but now many say the changing relationship between daylight and darkness as the seasons progress, triggers the blossoming of flowers. This response of plants to the shortening spring nights or lengthening fall nights is called photoperiodism.

Photoperiodism also plays an important part in root formation, in the growth of stems and leaves and affects birds as well. The migration of birds is now believed by many to be regulated by this reaction. Their return is said to be triggered by the lengthening days of spring which heightens activity in their reproductive glands. When the days grow longer, the birds must go north to breed.

The migration is on and song, Harris, fox, vesper and tree sparrows, mourning doves, marsh hawks, red-tailed hawks, and red-winged blackbirds are arriving. Most of the winter birds are still here. Hawks and owls who have migrated here for the winter from their far northern homes in a quest for food, are returning home to breed. Many face a trip to the Arctic tundra.

Some such as the short-eared, saw whet, long-eared and snowy owls are leaving for the north while others of their kind who have migrated farther south are passing through. Great horned owls nest early and the young leave the nest in March. This early nesting enables the young of these great hunters to learn to hunt when the young of other creatures are readily available and make easy prey.

Waterfowl are on the move across Iowa on the way to their northern breeding territories dressed in their

full plumage regalia and preforming courtship flights.

Red-billed gulls arrive when the ice breaks up as do the main flights of mallards usually arriving early in March. Although most are paired by now, a few groups of three (two males and one female) are still seen. They are joined by the noisy pintails flying in unpaired groups of six (five males and one female). Joining the mallards and pintails are flocks of canvasbacks, goldeneyes, buffleheads and American mergansers.

A few blue-winged teal, black ducks, baldpates, cinnamon teal, shovellers, wood ducks and goldeneyes arrive early in March but the main concentrations come in late March to mid-April.

Sometimes when ice remains on the ponds and streams, the blue and snow geese arrive on the heels of retreating winter often to be forced back temporarily by severe weather. They are usually here between the 10th and 25th of March. High overhead the flocks come in irregular V formations, breaking into smaller formations all overlapping and stretching for miles. Then they break formation, swing, and sideslip, losing altitude to join the resting flock. Along the Missouri River, this early flight is one of the world's most spectacular wildlife shows.

Nature acts as complex, delicate clockwork, more precisely dependable than any mechanized system ever conceived by the mind of man. Seeing plants unfold, animals scamper about after a winter sleep or watch birds on their age-old migratory journey is an interesting, exciting experience but one you can only get by seeing for yourself—March is the month to begin.

BEE TREES—

(Continued from page 19)

but the presence of numerous bee trees was an additional attraction. The most irritating incident during this dispute occurred when a Missourian came across the border and cut three of the coveted bee trees. The Iowan who owned the bee trees had the Missourian arrested which tended to aggravate the quarrel.

Man's interest in honey bees is an ancient one. A rock painting in a Spanish cave dating back to Paleolithic times shows a man gathering wild honey while the bees are flying around him menacingly. Man has kept bees since the earliest civilizations. The honey bee is about the only insect that can be made to work for man.

Honey bees are not native to North America. When white man began to colonize this country he brought with him the honey bee of the Old World. Most of the native bees were ground nesting bees storing little if any honey. It is believed honey bees were first introduced in New England about 1638. The first bees brought over here were the German or black bees. This type was followed by the Italian, Caucasian and Carniolan honey bees.

From New England the bees escaped through swarming proceeding into the wilderness more rapidly than the white settler. The earliest explorers in Iowa noted the presence of honey bees and the Indians called these bees "white man's flies." Such bees found good hunting in the virgin woods and prairies.

Prospective settlers were confident that wherever bees and bee trees were found there would be prolific crops.

The honey bee is an excellent pollinator of flowers. A good many fruit and seed crops are dependent upon insect pollination and today we depend extensively upon the honey bee for pollination of our crops. The native bees are also pollinators but their numbers have decreased due to their ground nests being destroyed by the plow. At first the native bees retreated to the fence rows, but with modern plowing methods this haven has rapidly disappeared.

How to Find One

Since bee trees have been sought since early times, an easy method of locating these trees was devised. Those in search of a bee tree would take a container of diluted honey to the edge of the woods. Bees would be attracted to this bait. After sipping on it they would fly to their bee tree. The man who baited the bees would note the direction of flight then move to a new location where a new observation would be taken. The converging lines would be followed until they intersected at the tree.

INLAND WATERS OF THE STATE

Iowa 1964 Fishing Seasons and Limits—
March 1, 1964 Through February 28, 1965

BOUNDARY WATERS

Kind of Fish:	Open Season	Daily Catch Limit	Possession Limit	Minimum Length or Weight	Mississippi River & Missouri River & Inland Waters of Lee County:
Carp, Buffalo, Quillback, Gar, Dogfish, Gizzard Shad, Sheepshead, Sucker, Redhorse, Chub, Sunfish, Bluegill, Bullhead, Rock Bass, Yellow Bass, Warmouth, Minnows and Sand Sturgeon	Continuous	None	None	None	Same as inland waters.
Rock Sturgeon	Closed				Closed.
Paddlefish	Continuous	2	4	5 lb.	Same as inland waters except no catch or possession limit on Mississippi River
Perch, Crappie, Silver Bass	Continuous	15	30	None	Same as inland waters except no catch or possession limit.
Trout	Continuous	6	12	None	Same as inland waters.
Catfish	Continuous	8	16	None	Continuous open season, catch or possession limit.
Largemouth Bass	Continuous	5	10	None	Largemouth and Smallmouth Black Bass. Continuous season. Aggregate catch limit 10; aggregate possession limit 20.
Smallmouth Bass	May 30-Feb. 15	5	10	None	Continuous open season, aggregate daily catch limit aggregate possession limit.
Walleye and Sauger	May 9-Feb. 15*	5	10	None	Continuous open season, aggregate daily catch limit aggregate possession limit.
Northern Pike (Pickerel)	May 9-Feb. 15*	3	6	None	Continuous open season, daily catch limit 5; possession limit 10.
Muskellunge	Closed				Closed.
Frogs (except Bullfrogs)	Continuous	4 doz.	8 doz.	None	Same as inland waters.
Bullfrogs (Rana Catesbeiana)	Continuous	1 doz.	1 doz.	None	Same as inland waters.

Where waters are located within the confines of state, county, city parks, or special management areas fishing will be permitted only when such areas are open to the public.

*In all streams; Missouri and Mississippi River oxbow lakes and artificial lakes a continuous open season for Walleye, Sauger and Northern Pike (Pickerel) shall apply.

EXCEPTIONS: On all state-owned natural lakes, all angling through ice is prohibited between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.

In Little Spirit Lake, Dickinson County; Iowa and Tuttle (Ok-

The capture of the bees was sometimes as important as the taking of the honey. The pioneers would transfer the bees to a hollow log called a "bee gum." They could then raise their own honey in their back yards.

At the present time bee trees are probably found more by accident than by hunting. They are still being cut today to obtain the wild honey, but more for sport than enterprise. For those who like to handle bees this "sport" can bring in a golden harvest of honey. For those who seek a safer sport there is a good supply of honey on the supermarket shelf.

manpedan) Lakes, Emmet County; Burt (Swag) Lake, Kossuth County; and Iowa Lake, Osceola County, the following exceptions apply:

WALLEYE, daily catch limit 6, possession limit 6; NORTHERN PIKE, daily catch limit 3, possession limit 3; SUNFISH, daily catch limit 15, possession limit 30; CATFISH, daily catch limit 16, possession limit 16. Open seasons on

WALLEYE FISHING—(Continued from page 17)

Some of the best river locations are the upper reaches of the Missouri, upper Des Moines, especially above Fort Dodge, Winnebago River from Fertile upstream, the Iowa River above Eldora, the Fork of the Cedar from Dumont to the Shellrock River, the Wapicon River including the Little Wapsi and Crane Creek.

In addition to the rivers opening continuously, all Mississippi River oxbow and cut-off lakes and all artificial lakes have a continuous open season. This opens some other popular water to early spring fishing for walleye, sauger and northern.

Some of the artificial marshes, such as Sweets Marsh near Tipton, have offered some good northern fishing in past years. Early spring fishing should be popular at such areas. Many of the artificial marshes in southern Iowa have had good walleye fishing and it appears that some fishermen are going to be taking some nice walleyes these lakes this spring.

If you lack confidence to try some early spring river fishing, you always go frog hunting—they're open continuously beginning March 1st also!

above fish, May 9 to February 28, 1965. **SMALLMOUTH and LARGEMOUTH BLACK BASS**, daily catch limit 5, possession limit 10. Open season, May 23 to November 30.

The possession limit shall not exceed thirty (30) fish of all species in the aggregate except that aggregate possession limit shall not apply to fish named on which there is no daily catch limit.